

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. An access monitoring base unit, comprising:  
5           a wireless piconet front end; and  
            a database to contain at least one entry relating to a  
presence of a monitored person within a monitored area.
2. The access monitoring base unit according to claim 1,  
10   wherein:  
          said wireless piconet front end utilizes a BLUETOOTH  
protocol.
3. The access monitoring base unit according to claim 1,  
15   wherein said at least one entry comprises:  
          unique person identifying information.
4. The access monitoring base unit according to claim 3,  
wherein said at least one entry further comprises:  
20           time stamp information relating to at least one of an  
entrance and an exit of said monitored person in said monitored area.
5. The access monitoring base unit according to claim 1,  
further comprising:  
25           an automatic dialing unit adapted to automatically call a  
particular telephone number when said monitored person either enters or  
exits said monitored area.

6. The access monitoring base unit according to claim 1,  
further comprising:

a remote access module adapted to allow remote access to  
said database.

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7. A personal wireless piconet identifying device,  
comprising:

a wireless piconet front end; and

a unique wearer ID code relating to an identity of a person  
10 associated with said personal wireless piconet identifying device.

8. The personal wireless piconet identifying device  
according to claim 7, wherein:

said wireless piconet front end utilizes a BLUETOOTH  
15 protocol.

9. An access monitoring system, comprising:

a base unit, comprising:

a wireless piconet front end, and  
20 a database to contain at least one entry  
relating to a presence of a monitored person within a  
monitored area; and

at least one personal wireless piconet identifying device,  
comprising:

a wireless piconet front end, and  
25 a unique wearer ID code relating to an identity  
of a person associated with said personal wireless  
piconet identifying device.

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10. The access monitoring system according to claim 9,  
further comprising:

5 a wireless piconet entrance/exit monitor to provide  
communications between said base unit and said at least one personal  
wireless piconet identifying device.

11. A method of monitoring a presence of at least one  
person within a monitored area, comprising:

10 establishing a wireless network between a personal wireless  
piconet identifying device associated with a particular monitored person  
and an access monitoring base unit; and

noting a presence or absence of said particular monitored  
person within said monitored area based on said established wireless  
network.

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12. The method of monitoring a presence of at least one  
person within a monitored area according to claim 11, wherein:

20 said wireless network includes a wireless piconet  
entrance/exit monitor between said personal wireless piconet identifying  
device and said access monitoring base unit.

13. The method of monitoring a presence of at least one  
person within a monitored area according to claim 11, further comprising:

25 noting time stamp information relating to an entrance or an  
exit of said monitored person in said monitored area.

14. The method of monitoring a presence of at least one  
person within a monitored area according to claim 11, wherein:

30 said established wireless network utilizes a BLUETOOTH  
protocol.

15. The method of monitoring a presence of at least one person within a monitored area according to claim 11, wherein:

said step of establishing said wireless network establishes said wireless piconet on a temporary basis.

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16. The method of monitoring a presence of at least one person within a monitored area according to claim 15, wherein:

said step of establishing is periodically performed.

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17. Apparatus for monitoring a presence of at least one person within a monitored area, comprising:

means for establishing a wireless network between a personal wireless piconet identifying device associated with a particular monitored person and an access monitoring base unit; and

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means for noting a presence or absence of said particular monitored person within said monitored area based on said established wireless network.

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18. The apparatus for monitoring a presence of at least one person within a monitored area according to claim 17, wherein said means for establishing said wireless network further comprises:

a wireless piconet entrance/exit monitor between said personal wireless piconet identifying device and said access monitoring base unit.

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19. The apparatus for monitoring a presence of at least one person within a monitored area according to claim 17, further comprising:

means for noting time stamp information relating to an entrance or an exit of said monitored person in said monitored area.

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20. The apparatus for monitoring a presence of at least one person within a monitored area according to claim 17, wherein:

said established wireless network utilizes a BLUETOOTH protocol.

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21. The apparatus for monitoring a presence of at least one person within a monitored area according to claim 17, wherein:

said means for establishing said wireless network establishes said wireless piconet on a temporary basis.

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22. The apparatus for monitoring a presence of at least one person within a monitored area according to claim 21, wherein:

said means for establishing said wireless network periodically re-establishes said wireless piconet.

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